

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN), an esteemed Member from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the author of the resolution.

□ 1730

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1055, to affirm strong United States-Liberian ties and support for democratic principles, and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia.

My district, Staten Island and South Brooklyn, is home to thousands of Liberians who have fled the turbulence of civil war. My constituents have directly told me how important it is to them that Liberia establish an extraordinary war crimes tribunal.

At this very moment, people who have committed unspeakable war crimes hold positions in the Liberian Government. Murder, rape, mutilation, torture, unfortunately, Liberia has seen it all. Although it has been decades since these atrocities have occurred, wounds cannot be healed without justice for victims.

Moreover, this lack of accountability is leading Liberia into a slow creep backwards towards the murderous mayhem of its civil war days. Without the justice Liberians are rightfully clamoring for, I fear there will be further violence and turbulence. This is why it is so crucial to call upon Liberia to establish a war crimes tribunal.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have had the great pleasure of working with Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL and the chairman of my subcommittee, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. The bipartisan manner in which they have conducted committee business in order to move impactful and consequential legislation is something truly to be admired and replicated.

Thank you, Chairman ROYCE.

Thank you to Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman SMITH, and my Democratic coleader, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, and all of our other cosponsors for supporting this resolution.

I would also like to thank the committee staff, especially Meg Gallagher, Sean O'Neill, and Marie Spear, for their work on this matter.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and continue to seek justice across the globe.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.

Res. 1055, offered by my good friend and colleague, DAN DONOVAN. This is an important piece of legislation. It underscores the unfinished business towards Liberia.

Liberia is one of our best friends and allies, historically to the present day, for very many reasons, including the fact that freed men and women and former slaves from this country went back and helped to make Liberia what it is today.

Unfortunately, they have had people like Charles Taylor, a despotic leader who killed and maimed and enabled gross rape. He, personally, has been held to account by the Court for Sierra Leone.

We all know that David Crane, chief prosecutor, who has testified before my subcommittee on several occasions, did a wonderful job in bringing large numbers of people to justice. Charles Taylor, for example, got 50 years. I will never forget that infamous photo of Taylor looking down at the floor, never thinking that he would get a 50-year jail term for his crimes.

But there are many others who never got prosecuted. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission made serious recommendations that have not been implemented, including establishment of a criminal tribunal for Liberia.

The time has come. DAN DONOVAN's bill puts the House clearly on record in saying we think this needs to be done, and it needs to be done now. I thank him for his leadership. On the subcommittee, he has been a great voice of reason and strength, as well as for human rights, particularly for those in Liberia. Last September, he chaired one of our hearings on Liberia, and I thought he did a masterful job, and I want to thank him for that leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bipartisan bill. I urge its passage.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I again want to thank Mr. DONOVAN and Chairman ROYCE for their work on this effort. We want to ensure that the U.S. continues to enjoy its centuries-long relationship with Liberia.

The measure puts the United States on record again, once again, encouraging Liberia in the right direction toward democratic stability and accountability. So I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my colleagues. I thank Representatives DAN DONOVAN and HANK JOHNSON for their work on this legislation, as well as CHRIS SMITH, ELIOT ENGEL, and KAREN BASS for their support.

The U.S. stands by the Liberian people, those living in Liberia, and the diaspora in their continued efforts for a more prosperous and a more democratic Liberia.

Reconciliation from the atrocities of the past is an important step in this

process and will ensure peace, and it will ensure that the stability remains. The U.S. must continue to support civil society, rule of law, and good governance to strengthen democratic institutions.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1055, legislation affirming the United States' strong relationship with Liberia.

Liberia gives us hope that if we are willing to face truth of our past there can be hope for unity after devastating divisions. It takes courage to honestly face your history and find ways to move forward as a country. We must commit to supporting and encouraging this burgeoning democracy.

It has been an honor to work with my colleague Rep. DONOVAN. I am encouraged by his commitment to this cause. I am pleased to stand before you today to voice my unwavering support for H. Res. 1055 and ask for yours as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1055.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AFFIRMING UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA COOPERATION ON SPACE RESEARCH, EXPLORATION, AND UTILIZATION

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1052) affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1052

Whereas the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Australia are treaty allies;

Whereas United States and Australia defense cooperation extends back 100 years, to the Battle of Hamel in World War I;

Whereas the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty, also referred to as the ANZUS Treaty, has formed the framework of the United States-Australia alliance since 1951;

Whereas the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultation, also referred to as AUSMIN, has contributed to a deeper partnership between the two nations;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) notes that, "The United States and Australia have been cooperating in civil space for more than 50 years";

Whereas the United States Apollo missions and subsequent space science and exploration conducted by the United States benefitted greatly from the partnership with our Australian allies;

Whereas Neil Armstrong's first steps on the surface of the Moon were relayed to Houston through the Honeysuckle Creek site in Australia;

Whereas NASA also notes that, "The Canberra complex is an integral component of NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), the world's largest and most sensitive scientific telecommunications system";

Whereas the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC) is one of NASA's largest tracking and communication facilities outside the United States;

Whereas, on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey and Acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot signed a 25-year agreement for continued cooperation on space cooperation, including on space tracking;

Whereas the United States and Australian governments have jointly committed to expanding Space Situational Awareness (SSA);

Whereas United States-Australia cooperation on SSA is critical to maximize defense capabilities, monitoring environmental changes, avoiding space congestion and collisions, and protecting against exploitation from the growing counter-space capabilities of our adversaries;

Whereas, on September 24, 2017, the Government of Australia under Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull committed to creating the Australian Space Agency, with operations beginning on July 1, 2018; and

Whereas the Australian Space Agency commenced operations on July 1, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Australian Government in constituting the Australian Space Agency;

(2) recognizes the value in United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization, including on terrestrial research, commercial activities, and human and robotic space exploration;

(3) supports international cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization and other forms of space diplomacy as being in the national interest of the United States;

(4) encourages the Department of State to support and facilitate international cooperation with Australia on space research, exploration, and utilization through diplomatic efforts, including through the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) forum and multilateral initiatives with Japan, Canada, the European Union, and other partners of both the United States and Australia; and

(5) supports deeper cooperation with our Australian allies in contributing each country's unique strengths and resources to mutual prosperity and security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Representative CASTRO from Texas, for sponsoring this measure, which affirms the longstanding strategic alliance between the United States and Australia, and especially our extensive cooperation on space-related activities.

Australia has long played a key role in the U.S. space program. It hosts several facilities that are crucial for maintaining communications with our manned and robotic missions. These facilities also support U.S. satellites and spacecraft, including those related to military and intelligence-related activities.

The establishment of the Australian Space Agency, which was just announced this past year, will only add to this long history and will promote more mutually beneficial cooperation as advanced technologies create new opportunities for jobs in both countries.

This increased cooperation is especially timely, as Australia's importance to the U.S. national security is enhanced by the ongoing militarization of space that is being undertaken by both Beijing and Moscow. This resolution highlights the growing importance of our two countries' cooperation in this vital area and looks forward to even closer ties in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

Let me thank Mr. CASTRO for introducing this measure underscoring the importance of U.S.-Australia bilateral cooperation in space. I am grateful for his leadership in bringing this next-generation issue to our attention in the House.

The United States and Australia already share deep bonds of cooperation:

We are treaty allies;

We share intelligence as Five Eyes partners;

We are engaged on a range of issues around the world, from defense, to trade, to development;

We share a deep cultural connection rooted in our common values of democracy and openness;

And, of course, this is a friendship quite literally forged in blood. Americans and Australians have fought and perished side by side in every war since World War I.

In July, the U.S.-Australia relationship entered its 100th year, and we celebrated together "100 Years of Mateship." We are already thinking about our cooperation over the next 100 years, and the U.S.-Australia partnership in space research, exploration, and utilization will surely be a key area.

The days are gone when human activity in space was limited to great powers competing with one another. Today, with telecommunication and weather satellites floating overhead, space plays a major role in the day-to-day lives of people all over the world.

Of course, not all countries interested in space exploration share our interests and values when it comes to space. That is why we want to ensure that the values that have underpinned the U.S.-Australia partnership are also carried into our collaboration in the space domain.

This resolution reaffirms those values and the importance of this forward-looking partnership. I am pleased to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), the author of this bill and a valuable member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE for all of their help on this piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank my colleague from New York, ELISE STEFANK, for introducing this resolution with me, which honors the U.S.-Australia space cooperation.

This year marks 100 years of close cooperation between the United States and Australia. Dating back to World War I, our nations have cooperated diplomatically, culturally, militarily, and economically. Just as we come together on other concrete issues, we must also come together to better understand what lies beyond our own universe.

This July, Australia set up its national space agency. With this creation, Australia joined a chorus of nations seeking to understand our place in the universe.

This isn't the first time our nations have cooperated on space. The first images of Neil Armstrong on the surface of the Moon were transmitted to the world through radio stations in Australia.

We have also cooperated on securing our people's futures through defense cooperation in space. The establishment of Australia's first space agency is an opportunity to expand on this cooperation towards a more complete understanding of all of these issues. This includes manned and unmanned exploration, research across our universities on astrophysics and other issues, and the development of commercial options to access space.

This resolution recognizes the importance of this new space agency and the value of U.S. cooperation with Australia on space exploration. It also encourages our State Department to facilitate international cooperation on this issue through diplomatic channels. In doing so, we will strengthen our partnerships in the region and internationally.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Let me again thank Mr. CASTRO for putting forward this timely and important resolution. He has been a valued leader on policy on Asia and policy in Australia.

As we look to the future of U.S.-Australia relations over the next 100 years, I am confident that our countries will be able to expand our close collaboration in the critical domain of space exploration and research.

This resolution commends the Government of Australia for constituting the Australian Space Agency, which lays the foundation for our bilateral cooperation in space. It also underscores America's interests in prioritizing space cooperation in the years to come and in doing it with a good friend in Australia.

I support the passage of this resolution. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Representative CASTRO of Texas, for sponsoring this measure.

Our cooperation with Australia in space-related activities is a key element of our broader strategic relationship. Those ties will become increasingly important as new technologies create expanded opportunities for peaceful endeavors and as Beijing and Moscow and others increasingly challenge U.S. national security in space.

Expanding our joint efforts in this area will enhance the interests of both countries and further strengthen our longstanding strategic alliance.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely, bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1052 which affirms cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization between the United States and its great ally, Australia.

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the landing of *Apollo 11* on the Moon, it is fitting that we acknowledge the contribution of NASA's tracking station located at Honey-suckle Creek in Australia and Australia's Parkes radio telescope to the success of the *Apollo 11* mission.

Indeed, Neil Armstrong's famous words announcing humankind's first step on the Moon were first received by those facilities located in Australia before being relayed to the rest of the world.

Australia has been a crucial partner to the U.S. space program ever since.

For example, scientists and engineers from the Australian Space Agency worked with NASA at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex to support communications for the landing of rovers on Mars, the arrival of New Horizons to Pluto, and the entry of Juno into orbit around Jupiter.

And NASA will build on its experience conducting sounding rocket launch operations at Australia's Woomera Test Range by using the

Equatorial Launch Australia launch range for several Astrophysics missions that are scheduled for 2019.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I have been engaged in ensuring that NASA establish the requisite building blocks to ensure the success of the Nation's space exploration program.

One of those building blocks will be international cooperation and partnerships.

The National Academies' Committee on Human Spaceflight recommended in its 2014 "Pathways to Exploration" report that NASA, among other recommendations, "vigorously pursue opportunities for international and commercial collaboration in order to leverage financial resources and capabilities of other nations and commercial entities".

Peaceful international cooperation has been a hallmark of NASA's approach since its inception. House Resolution 1052 resolution affirms the need for such cooperation and partnership with Australia.

I urge my fellow Members to pass this Resolution.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1052.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6018) to establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6018

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018".

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries' capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, inter-agency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

#### SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTER TERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership" (TSCTP), to coordinate all United States programs, projects, and activities in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries in such regions, including the ability to monitor, restrain, and interdict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of such partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities through public diplomacy efforts, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(G) To support independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, to counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1)